

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 247579
ORIGIN EA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRD

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT ON EXPORT POLICY

PLEASE PASS TONY ALBRECHT FROM EA/EP

REF: (A) STATE 246513 (B) ICA WIRELESS FILE EPF NO. 27,
SEPT 26, 1978

1. THESE ARE A FEW BACKGROUND COMMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S
STATEMENT ON EXPORT POLICY FOR USE ON YOUR TRIP. WE FIND
THE STATEMENT VERY POSITIVE IN TONE. ESSENTIALLY, COMMERCE
PERSUADED EISENHOWER'S STAFF THAT A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT
HAD TO BE A STRONG ONE, AND THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF WAS VERY
HELPFUL IN DRAFTING IT;

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2. ALTHOUGH THE STATEMENT SAYS, APPARENTLY UNAMBIGUOUSLY,
THAT THE PRESIDENT INSTRUCTED OMB TO ALLOCATE QUOTE AN
ADDITIONAL DOLS 20 MILLION UNQUOTE FOR EXPORT DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS, COMMERCE HAS TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SENATE THAT

IT WILL REPROGRAM HALF OF ITS SHARE AND IS SEEKING NEW
MONEY FOR THE OTHER HALF. IT STILL LOOKS LIKE A BIG JOB

TO GET OMB APPROVAL.

3. UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS HEADING, THE WHITE HOUSE APPROVED MEDIUM TERM CCC CREDITS FOR A FEW COMMODITIES, A RECOMMENDATION THAT WE HAD THOUGHT EARLIER WAS TO BE DISAPPROVED.

4. UNDER TAX MEASURES, THE STATEMENT CLAIMS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION SOUGHT TO AMEND SECTION 911 TO PROVIDE DOLS 250 MILLION OF RELIEF. THIS REPRESENTS VALUE OF ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL TO TAXPAYERS OVERSEAS AND WOULD NOT BE ADDITIONAL TO PRESENT LAW. NO SHIFT IN ADMINISTRATION POSITION.

5. THE STATEMENT'S LANGUAGE CONCERNING DISC REPRESENTS A STEP TO HOLD OUT POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE WITH CONGRESS THAT WAS TAKEN A FEW WEEKS AGO IN TESTIMONY BY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL. THE ADMINISTRATION'S OPPOSITION TO DISC HAS NOT CHANGED, EXCEPT TO ACCEPT PARTIAL REVISION IN PREFERENCE TO NONE. CHRISTOPHER

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